

HIVE FUND

IMPACT REPORT 2023



ABOUT US

The Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice is a specialized intermediary that raises funds and makes grants to groups that are building power to accelerate an equitable transition to cleaner, renewable energy and rein in dirty energy in the US South, where pollution levels and clean energy opportunities are high and funding levels are low. Learn more at hivefund.org.

CONTENTS

Letter from the Co-Directors	1
Our Grantmaking	3
Progress and Opportunities: Rapidly Transitioning to Cleaner, Renewable Energy	5
Strengthening Equitable Green Finance Infrastructure	6
Building Community Capacity	7
Expanding Rural Clean Energy Opportunities and Benefits	9
Winning Strong and Equitable Clean Energy Policies	10
Funding Opportunity: IRA Climate Justice Zones	13
Progress and Opportunities: Stopping the Expansion of Dirty Energy	19
Stopping Oil & Gas Expansion	20
Pushing back on CCS	23
Funding Opportunity: Surge Funding for Frontline Groups in the Gulf South	25
Stopping Harmful Biofuels	27
Funding Healing Justice and Holistic Security	28
Put Your Money Where the South Is	31

LETTER FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

As the Hive Fund approaches our four-year anniversary, we're looking back in awe and gratitude at all we've accomplished together as frontline, advocacy, and power-building grantee partners, advisors, funders, and staff. We've taken huge steps toward our shared goals of accelerating an equitable transition to cleaner energy, decreasing dirty energy, and amplifying the power of women — especially women of color — in these efforts.

The last year has been one of growing opportunities and urgent threats, from helping historically disinvested communities get ready to access billions in new federal climate dollars to countering a massive, proposed expansion of oil and gas export facilities along the Gulf Coast. We're stepping up our fundraising and growing our staff and grantmaking capacity to answer groups' calls for support and resources as they rise to meet this moment.

Our spring 2023 docket marked our first opportunity to renew funding for many of the grantee partners we supported in our very first cycle of three-year grants back in 2020. We renewed funding for over 70 percent of those organizations, understanding that policy campaigning, civic engagement, and systems change take time. As groups are able to consistently strengthen relationships, collaborations, and the fabric of their networks, they are able to flex more and more power for strong policies and a healthy democracy that leads to climate, gender, and racial justice.

We started the Hive Fund to help answer the call of a decisive decade that will chart the course for our climate and energy future. Now, because frontline movements were successful in driving historic federal funding for climate action, we're also investing to make this the deployment decade: a 10-year stretch that resources communities to bring to fruition their innovative plans to extend the promise of cleaner, renewable energy to those who have too often borne the burden of our dirty energy system.

We're grateful to all our funders — and especially those who have renewed and increased their grants this year — for joining us in this important work.

Melanie Allen and Erin Rogers

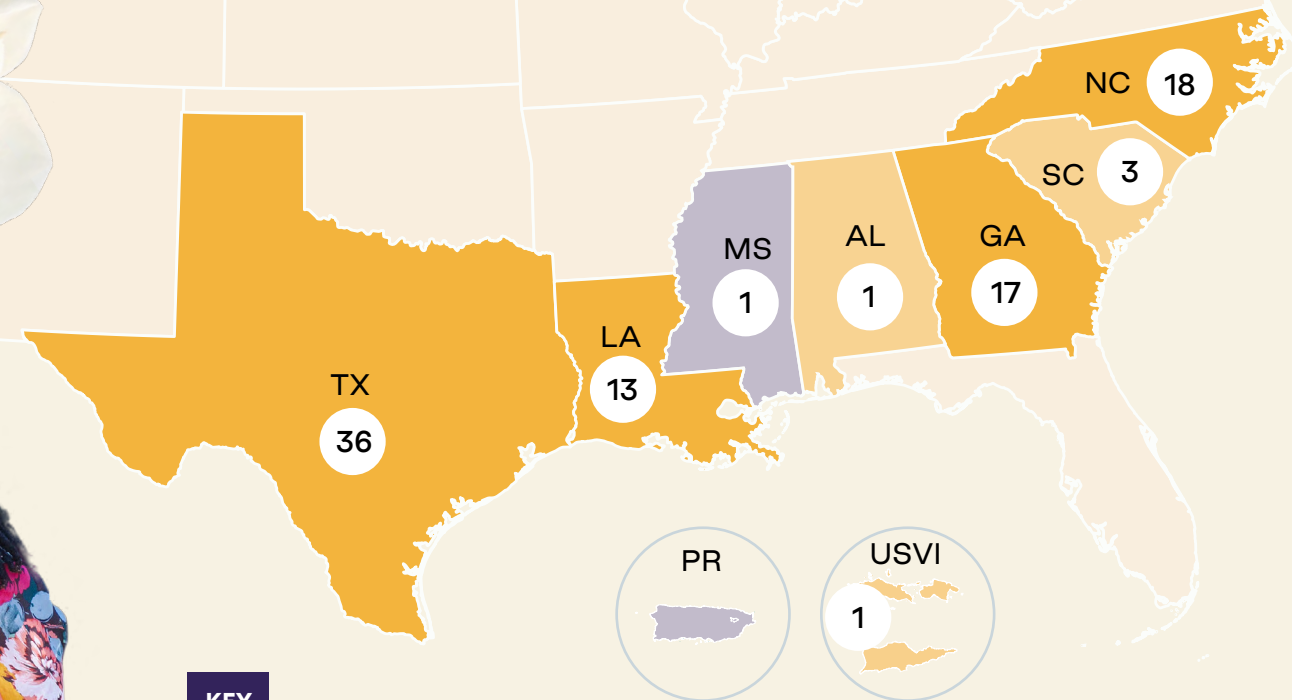
[Meet our team at hivefund.org/staff](https://hivefund.org/staff)

[Meet our advisors at hivefund.org/advisory-board](https://hivefund.org/advisory-board)



GRANTEE PARTNERS

Texas and the Southeast are responsible for nearly 40 percent of US global warming pollution¹ yet receive just 23 percent of regionally focused climate philanthropy.² Nearly 90 percent of Hive Fund grant dollars have gone to groups based and working in our seven-state focus area in the South.



KEY




- Currently funding
- Emerging funding
- Future funding
- 1 Current grantees

[Visit hivefund.org/our-grantmaking to learn more](https://hivefund.org/our-grantmaking)

¹ 2022 Rhodium Climate Deck.
² Climate and Energy Funders Group.

OUR GRANTMAKING

The Hive Fund focuses our grantmaking to advance three priority goals:

-  **Rapidly transition to cleaner, renewable energy in ways that equitably redistribute leadership, ownership, and benefits to disinvested communities in the US South and beyond.**
-  **Stop the expansion of dirty energy industries in the US South, break their political, economic, and social stranglehold, and reduce their pollution and other direct harms to communities.**
-  **Increase the positional power of women of color leaders by resourcing them to succeed and thrive.**

Our grants are:

Multiyear general support: Recognizing grantees' expertise and maximizing their agency, flexibility, and financial security.

Multipronged: Supporting constellations of groups engaged in many tactics and levers of change.

Multisolving: Supporting groups working across multiple interconnected issues.

78%

Grant funding to groups led by women of color

SUPPORTING POWERFUL WOMEN LEADERS

Women, and particularly women of color, have played vital leading roles in social movements throughout history, but their contributions and leadership have long been diminished and underfunded due to racism and sexism. In this critical moment for addressing the climate crisis, we're intentional about disrupting this pattern so that we all benefit from fuller contributions and solutions. Look for the Southern Powerbuilders highlights throughout this report to learn more about the women leaders we support.



GRANTMAKING SNAPSHOT

As of August, 2023

\$57M

grants awarded since 2020

113

current grantee partners

90%

grants that are 3-year, general operating support

\$300K

median 3-year grant size (\$100K/year)

72%

2020 grants renewed in 2023



See our theory of change at hivefund.org/theory-of-change

PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

RAPIDLY TRANSITIONING TO CLEANER, RENEWABLE ENERGY



There is vast potential for transitioning to cleaner, more affordable, and more resilient energy in the South, thanks to a massive influx of federal funding and growing public demand.

In fact, cleaning up the electric power supply in the seven states where the Hive Fund focuses could remove a quarter of US power emissions. In Texas, where renewable energy is already fueling up to 40 percent of the state's electricity,³ new federal funds could spur more than 100,000 additional clean energy jobs in coming years.⁴ North Carolina is currently one of the top ranked states for installed solar capacity, and strong policies could further accelerate renewables. And Georgia and South Carolina are both seeing significant new investment in electric vehicle, battery, and solar manufacturing.

Groups representing communities of color and low-wealth communities across the South — those historically excluded from the growing clean energy economy and disproportionately harmed by dirty energy — are building powerful and collaborative movements capable of winning strong policies and innovating new economic models to ensure that their communities see tangible benefits. These efforts can broaden and intensify public support for clean energy deployment, accelerating us toward tipping points for large-scale emission reductions.

³ "Renewables help Tame Texas Electricity Costs as Heat Wave Swamps State," Axios, July 5, 2023.

⁴ "Federal Policies are Fueling an American Clean Energy Jobs and Investment Boom," Forbes, July 10, 2023.

STRENGTHENING EQUITABLE GREEN FINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

Trusted financial institutions that have a long history of providing services in low-income communities are critical catalysts for the energy transition. Green banks, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), minority depository institutions, and credit unions can leverage federal and private funds to remove credit barriers and provide grant dollars, financing, and technical assistance to businesses and residential households alike. The Hive Fund is supporting these institutions to work together, in partnership with grassroots advocates, to shape the flow of funding from an array of federal funding sources, including the new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), and pilot new financial products and ownership models to ensure the renewable energy systems we usher in don't recreate or further entrench racial and gender inequities.

GRANTEE PROGRESS

- The African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs, the National Bankers Association, Inclusiv, and other groups successfully advocated for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with multiple partners in channeling grant and loan funds through the GGRF, increasing the chances of these resources reaching institutions with a track record of serving low-income communities in line with Justice40 objectives.
- Through the 19-member Community Builders of Color Coalition, these organizations also established the Justice Climate Fund to move GGRF and other funds towards clean energy initiatives and offer technical assistance to communities of color. They are now gearing up to apply to serve as an EPA designated lending hub.
- North Carolina's first green bank, the NC Clean Energy Fund, brought on its first co-directors — both women — in March 2023.
- New green banks The Clean Energy Fund of Texas, Finance New Orleans, and the NC Clean Energy Fund joined as inaugural members in the Southern + Clean Energy Accelerator to build green lending capacity focused on low-income communities.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

With federal climate funding moving at breakneck speed, there's an urgent need to ensure community groups are ready to compete for these grants and loans to bring their visions to fruition. Hive Fund grantee partners are building a robust technical support network across the South and co-creating with us a strategy to support community readiness (see page 13).

GRANTEE PROGRESS

- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice was selected as an EPA Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center to help remove barriers to federal funding for community groups with environmental justice concerns.
- Anchored by grantee partner EnerWealth Solutions, Black Owners of Solar Services (B.O.S.S.) won \$6M in Department of Energy funds to pilot a program that will serve as a national model for supporting minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in entering the clean energy industry.
- Partnership for Southern Equity's Justice40 Accelerator has supported over 100 groups nationally in seeking federal funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and other climate and environmental justice initiatives, with an 81 percent success rate and more than \$33M awarded.
- Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund and other climate justice groups organized across the state to support school districts in applying for the EPA's Clean School Bus program, resulting in awards of 122 buses, including charging infrastructure, in 14 districts. The coalition saw this as the first opportunity to play a role in securing IRA investments and learning how to work together as more investments come.



Ajulo Othow of EnerWealth Solutions at the B.O.S.S. launch event with DOE Director Shalanda Baker



The work we're doing together now required decades of showing up for each other, working through differences, and building trust. Investment in relationship and coalition building is the seed for community power to be nurtured and bloom."

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Ph.D., MPH
Co-Founder and Executive Director of West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks is a community builder, environmental health scientist, and educator who leads West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), a longtime community anchor that is building transformational economic power. WAWA and partners successfully advocated for a community commission to help direct federal funds, are establishing a new community-controlled financing mechanism to help reduce energy burden, and are connecting local groups to regional and national resources to facilitate infrastructure investments in long neglected communities, including a mobile microgrid and renewable and energy efficiency programs that are accessible and effective for low- and moderate-income households.



Photo by Audra Melton

EXPANDING RURAL CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS

The Inflation Reduction Act will provide the largest investment in rural energy systems since the Rural Electrification Act was signed in 1936 and, combined with federal investments in clean tech manufacturing through the CHIPS and Science Act and other programs, could have a transformative impact on the rural South. The Hive Fund is supporting rural electric cooperative (REC) innovation and leadership on renewable energy and demand reduction, as well as efforts to ensure the economic opportunities and benefits of new clean tech investments flow to historically disinvested communities.

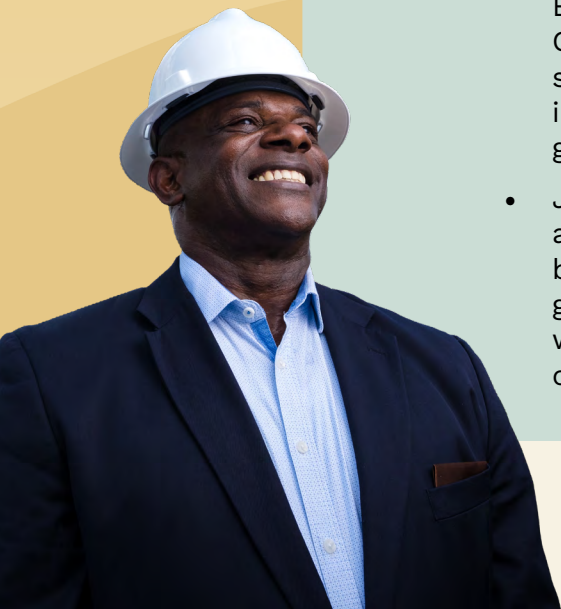
GRANTEE PROGRESS

- Roanoke Cooperative, a North Carolina rural electric cooperative with a nonprofit arm Roanoke Center, is innovating new models to reduce energy costs, manage demand, and increase access to renewables for its largely Black member owners. They piloted an electric vehicle-to-grid model in partnership with Clean Energy Works that they are now implementing with local school districts, and are using federal funds to upgrade power lines, paving the way for more rooftop solar and other renewables.

 [Full story at hivefund.org/powerbuilders-roanoke](https://hivefund.org/powerbuilders-roanoke)

- Georgia Conservation Voters released scorecards rating all 41 electric membership cooperatives in Georgia on the quality of their services to members, including efforts to improve access to clean energy and broadband. The Advancing Equity and Opportunity Collaborative, with support from One Voice Mississippi and Partnership for Southern Equity, similarly released scorecards for rural electric cooperatives in the Southeast to equip member owners to demand better governance and affordable, cleaner energy.
- Jobs to Move America signed a community benefits agreement last year with New Flyer America, an electric bus manufacturer with a facility in rural Alabama, that guarantees family-sustaining wages, career pathways, workforce development, protections for workers' right to organize, and equitable hiring and promotion practices.

Roanoke Cooperative President and CEO Marshall Cherry



WINNING STRONG AND EQUITABLE CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES

State and local governments and regulatory agencies are increasingly important venues for climate progress as congressional gridlock continues and the courts hamstringing federal agencies. The Hive Fund supports advocacy and organizing groups and provides funding for better collaboration through coalitions. Thanks to increasing reach and influence, these groups are winning energy efficiency and clean energy policies that reduce global warming emissions while also delivering other important benefits, like decreasing energy bills.

GRANTEE PROGRESS

- Groups in North and South Carolina won increased utility investments in energy efficiency for low-income customers and utility financing of energy efficiency upgrades through on-bill tariff programs.
- Clean Energy Works successfully urged the EPA to include inclusive utility investments as a distinct form of financing policy in its Clean Energy Financing Toolkit for Decisionmakers for the first time.
- The Power Coalition for Justice and Equity and other groups in Louisiana persuaded legislators to allocate \$30 million of state budget funding for roof fortification to help weatherize and fortify homes, setting the stage for future energy efficiency and solar upgrades.
- A broad coalition of groups in Texas defeated legislation that would have severely restricted the growing renewable energy industry in Texas.



Partnership for Southern Equity leaders

**STRATEGY HIGHLIGHT:
PROTECTING DEMOCRACY**

A decade after the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, attempts to suppress access to the ballot and other means of public participation have been increasingly successful. In the last year alone we've seen:

- Introduction of stringent voter ID laws across the region.
- Waves of gerrymandered district maps, in North Carolina's case with sanction from the state supreme court.
- Targeted voter roll purges in Georgia.
- Reversal of voting rights for felons in North Carolina.
- Domestic terrorism charges levied against protesters.

Protecting democracy is critically important for climate progress in the years ahead, yet support for groups doing the long-term work of registering, educating, and engaging voters and fighting voter suppression has been inconsistent. Early in 2023 we made substantial multiyear general support grants to groups doing year-in-year-out civic engagement.

SOUTHERN POWERBUILDER



The young people I work with know that achieving climate justice is dependent on engaging with decision-makers who aren't beholden to the polluters. I've worked my way up from organizer to director, and I know many young people can see themselves in me. This has made a big difference in breaking through cynicism and showing that we — Brown, Black, Indigenous, young people — can wield power for good policies and good government."

Ofelia Alonso

Director, Texas Freedom Network's Texas Rising program

Ofelia Alonso is a social justice advocate and youth leader based in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. As director of the Texas Freedom Network's Texas Rising program, she organizes and educates young people of color — the fastest growing demographic in the state — around social and environmental justice issues and how to use their voices to advocate for themselves at all levels of government.





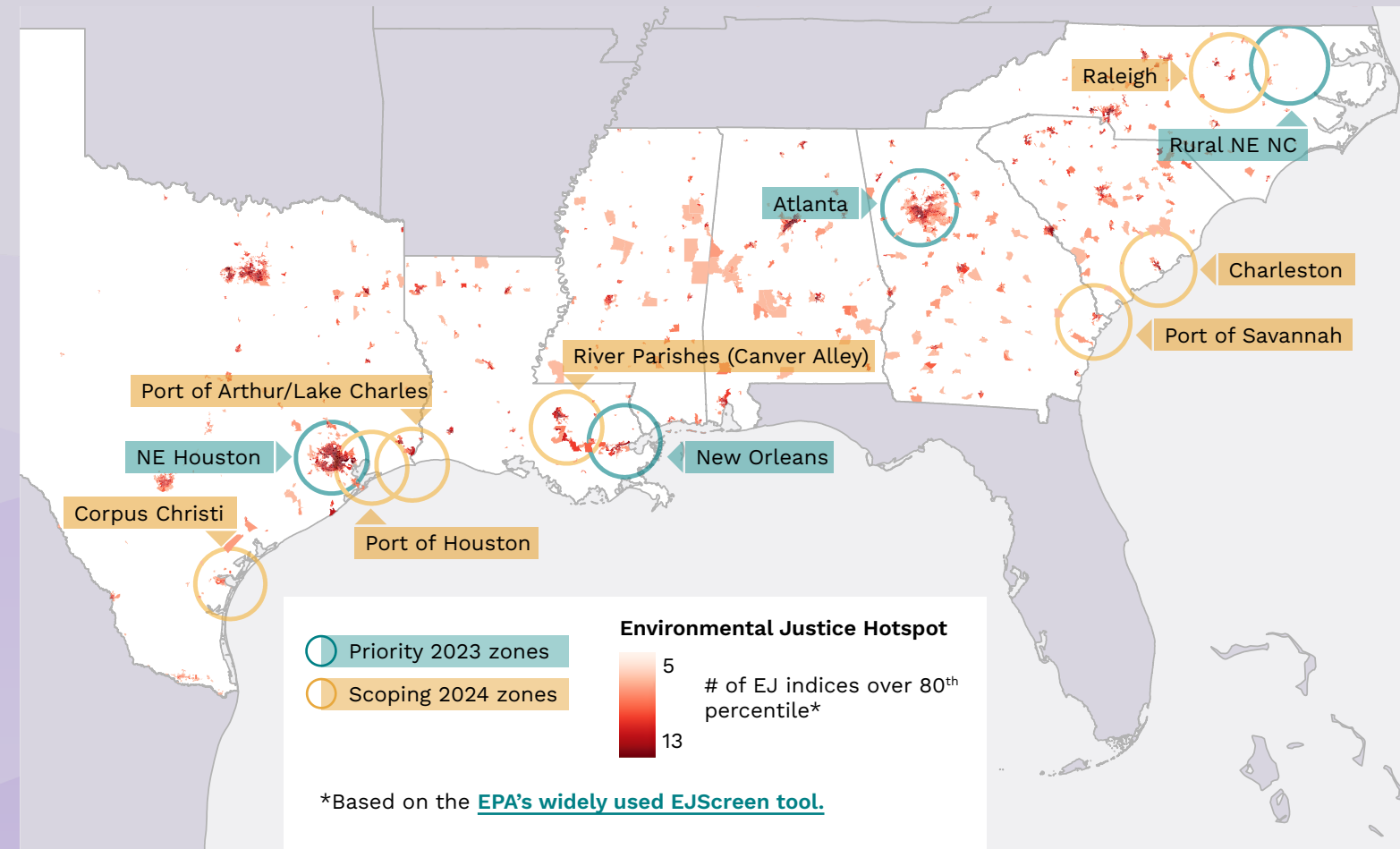
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

MOVING COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FROM SHOVEL WORTHY TO SHOVEL READY

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), together with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Justice40 Executive Order, and other new environmental justice executive orders, has created an historic opportunity to transition to cleaner, renewable energy in ways that not only reduce emissions, but also improve health and safety and create economic opportunity for a broad swath of Americans. Philanthropy can help ensure that these laws deliver on their promise to reach low-income and environmental justice communities by moving quickly to expand support to community-based groups that have powerful visions for implementation and are ready to provide the organizers, doers, builders, and connectors to bring them to life.

Building on existing relationships and learnings from our grantee partner network, the Hive Fund will focus on up to **ten iconic IRA climate justice zones** across the South (as funding allows). In each zone, we will provide multiyear grants and coordination consultants to help groups collaborate, build partnerships, and access technical assistance to successfully compete for federal funding and other resources to move clean energy and other climate justice projects from shovel worthy to shovel ready, and ultimately implement and scale them. With philanthropic support, groups can organize and advocate for community priorities in ways that also build power, change policies, and communicate successes that build a spiral of momentum. These projects can also spur innovative financing models and approaches that can be shared across localities and regions, creating a powerful ripple effect.

HIVE FUND IRA CLIMATE JUSTICE ZONES GRANTMAKING FOCUS



INVEST IN IRA CLIMATE JUSTICE ZONES

To meet this exciting opportunity — and match its urgent time scale — the Hive Fund is raising and beginning to deploy \$100 million over three years in a strategic grantmaking approach that will drive billions more in public funding and private capital to community-led climate solutions while intensifying public support for more climate action.



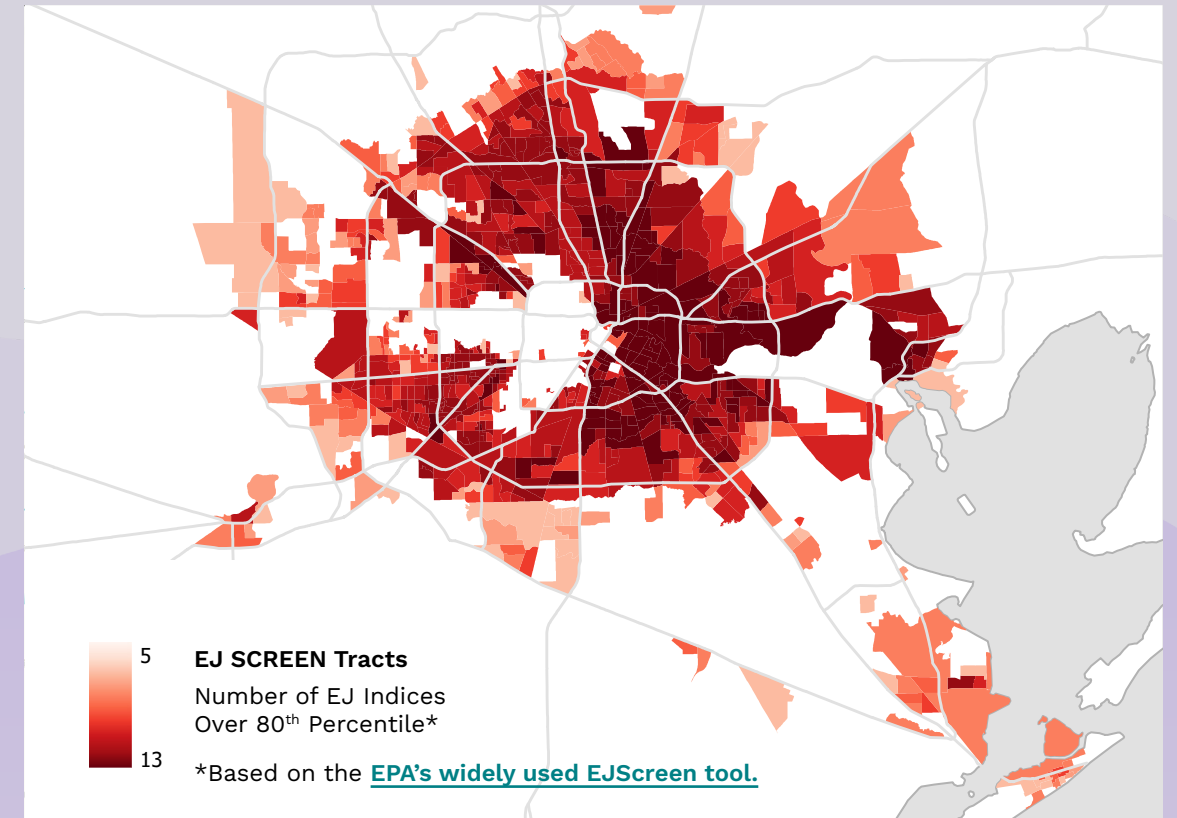
SPOTLIGHT ON HOUSTON

The Houston metro region is contending with the kind of climate-induced transitions that the rest of the country will eventually face as well. Public demand for greater resilience; cleaner, affordable, and reliable energy; and more equitable distribution of wealth and health is growing, while at the same time intensifying storms, increased pollution, and governmental dysfunction make those changes more difficult to achieve. How the self-described Energy Capital of the World (and the state with by far the highest global warming emissions in the country) handles these transitions will have global ramifications.

In 2022, the Hive Fund made **initial multiyear grants** to 20 groups working in and with organizations in Houston’s East/Northeast quadrant (the areas of the map with the highest air pollution, toxic and carcinogenic pollution, and water pollution and lowest incomes and life expectancy) to meet community-identified needs of increased resilience and energy efficiency, affordable clean energy access, and equitable and clean mobility. We hired trusted project management and coordination consultants to foster collaboration and help groups prepare for new federal funding opportunities. These consultants **helped convene** and are now supporting a new Northeast Houston collaborative, facilitating partnerships with allies in city and county governments, and helping connect groups with tailored technical assistance.

The next phases of work include capacity assessments and preparing to apply for and receive EPA block grants, as well as co-designing and implementing green loan products for low-to-moderate income households in partnership with the Clean Energy Fund of Texas, and in anticipation of future financing from EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The collaborative was also selected to participate in the Design Workshop Foundation’s inaugural Community Capacity Building Initiative.

HOUSTON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE HOTSPOTS



Air Alliance Houston team members

**EARLY
SIGNS OF
PROGRESS**

- The Northeast Action Collective and West Street Recovery successfully advocated for \$40 million in city funding towards improved drainage in flood-prone areas of Northeast Houston, starting the reversal of decades of disinvestment in critical infrastructure and setting the stage for additional climate resilience projects as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in homes and buildings.
- Air Alliance Houston partnered with the City of Houston to win \$500,000 from the EPA for air monitors to track air quality and identify toxic hotspots, giving advocates extra ammunition for transitioning away from polluting industries.
- Solar United Neighbors partnered with West Street Recovery to install solar on 10 homes with high energy burdens, including three with battery systems that are serving as Resilience Hub Houses for Northeast Houston. Residents have already seen their electric bills cut by more than half. Groups are now working to scale up this project to 400 homes.
- The Clean Energy Fund of Texas was awarded \$2 million in private capital to pilot new lending products for energy efficiency upgrades in low-income communities of color. They also launched an electric vehicle line of credit pilot program in partnership with the City of Austin aimed at increasing access to electric vehicles for low- and moderate-income families, a model that can be extended to Houston and other regions.

SOUTHERN POWERBUILDER



I want to see Northeast Houston as a thriving community. My mantra is, ‘If it’s not right, I’m going to fight.’ I want to change policy and for everyone to say, ‘Can we get along? Can we be unified in the work that we are doing?’ Solidarity is paramount, if we don’t stand together, we can’t get it done.”

Doris Brown
Co-Director of West Street Recovery and
Co-Founder of Northeast Action Collective

Doris Brown is a long-time community organizer and civil rights icon who co-founded the Northeast Action Collective and co-directs West Street Recovery, two organizations that advocate for the community and provide disaster recovery assistance. Her home received a solar and battery storage system from Solar United Neighbors, and now serves as a neighborhood resiliency hub.



Photo courtesy of Solar United Neighbors

PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

STOPPING THE EXPANSION OF DIRTY ENERGY



The United States is by far the world's largest producer of oil and gas, pumping 20 percent of the world's oil and 24 percent of the world's gas.

Production is surging, with 478⁵ new or expanded oil and gas projects proposed (see map on page 21), including refineries and export terminals that are expected to double or even triple US gas exports in coming years.⁶ Increased domestic climate pollution from these facilities threatens to cancel out all of the hard-fought emission reductions we may achieve through deployment of clean energy facilitated by the Inflation Reduction Act. In addition, the carbon dioxide embedded in oil and gas exports is projected to grow to more than half of all US emissions by 2040—a global carbon bomb.⁷

The vast majority of this new oil, gas, and petrochemical infrastructure is slated to be built near Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-wealth communities in Texas and Louisiana, where local air and water pollution is already unbearable. Challenging these powerful industries' expansion is daunting, but thanks to increasing philanthropic support, frontline groups along the Gulf Coast are growing in capacity and power and connecting with national and global counterparts to hold the line.

Rural communities along the Atlantic Coast are also fighting the expansion of biomass and biogas industries — wood pellets produced for global export from Southern forests and gas produced from industrial hog farms — that contribute to carbon pollution and have devastating local health and environmental impacts.

⁵ Proposed and pending projects identified in Environmental Integrity Project's [Oil & Gas Watch](#).

⁶ "LNG Exports May Spell Trouble on Horizon for U.S. Consumers," Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

⁷ Data from US Energy Information Administration [Annual Energy Outlook 2023](#). Analysis by Jeremy Symons/Symons Public Affairs.

STOPPING OIL & GAS EXPANSION

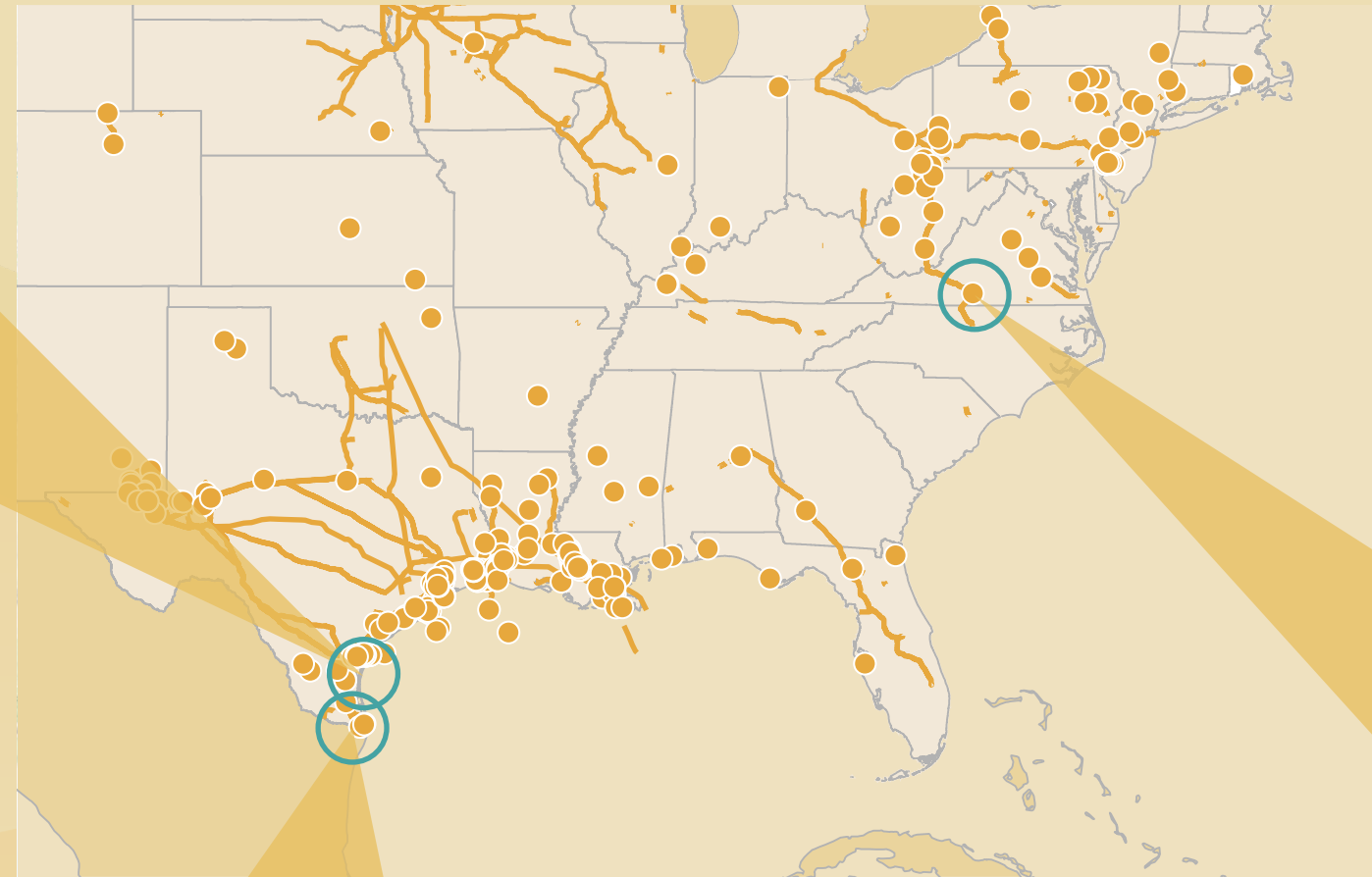
The Hive Fund supports constellations of grantee partners across the Gulf South — in Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Houston, and Port Arthur, Texas as well as Lake Charles and the River Parishes in Louisiana — that are challenging polluters in facility-by-facility campaigns and beginning to translate wins into broader policy changes to slow and stop multiple projects at once. Frontline leaders and power builders in these areas are building strength and connecting with national and international legal, communications, policy, and finance campaigns. Together, these growing networks with impacted communities at the center are achieving important victories and are poised to grow.

WINS TO CELEBRATE

Grantee partners' legal and regulatory efforts, community organizing, and global finance campaigning has resulted in progress across the Gulf South in the last year:

- Société Générale, a European financial services company, withdrew financial backing of Rio Grande LNG in Brownsville, TX pointing to its environment, social, and governance principles.
- EPA withdrew the pollution control permit for the Bluewater offshore oil terminal near Corpus Christi, TX.
- EPA revoked the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's authority to grant a wastewater discharge permit for the proposed Harbor Island desalination project in Port Aransas.
- US Army Corps stalled its approval for the Enbridge oil export terminal near Corpus Christi. Nearby city and school districts in Ingleside, TX denied Enbridge ten years of local tax breaks.
- EPA denied Cheniere LNG an exemption to continue using a toxic turbine in Corpus Christi.

PROPOSED AND PENDING OIL AND GAS PROJECTS AND PIPELINES



Source: Environmental Integrity Project's [Oil & Gas Watch](#).

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Local groups have identified desalination as a key chokepoint in slowing expansion of water-hungry oil, gas, plastics, petrochemical, and other polluting industries, which are already using 80 percent of the city's fresh water supply. Rallying residents subject to stringent household water restrictions and boil water notices, they have succeeded in galvanizing local opposition and stopping or stalling all five proposed desalination facilities undergoing review by state regulatory agencies.

 [Full story at hivefund.org/powerbuilders-corpus](https://hivefund.org/powerbuilders-corpus)



Photo by Jorge Sanhueza-Lyon

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

The Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe, Sierra Club, Vecinos para el Bienestar de la Comunidad Costera, and other partners have built strong local opposition, influenced European financiers, and won permitting and other legal challenges to fend off three proposed gas export terminals and associated pipelines. One of the three projects continues to move forward, and the groups have filed lawsuits, held press conferences, and used other strategies to compel federal agencies to meet required climate and environmental justice impact analyses in an attempt to stop this export terminal from being built on land sacred to the Tribe.



Photo by Greg Harman, Deceleration



Photo by Myles Green and Eman Mohammed, Survival Media Agency

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE

7 Directions of Service is keeping up the fight to protect communities from the Mountain Valley Pipeline, despite a major setback in the federal debt ceiling compromise. They and their partners facilitated over 38,000 comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — including letters of opposition from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper and 50 NC state legislators — on the project's Southgate Extension.

PUSHING BACK ON CCS

The Inflation Reduction Act and other policies have given a huge boost to carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), creating a set of perverse incentives for more oil and gas production. Ninety percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) that's currently captured is being injected into spent oil and gas wells to push out more fossil fuels in a process called enhanced oil recovery. Federal subsidies for this process are expected to unlock hundreds of billions of barrels of oil in Texas alone. Communities are also concerned about the safety of poorly regulated sequestration sites and proposed CO2 pipelines. Hive Fund grantee partners in Texas and Louisiana are working to expose the dangers of this technology and compel federal and state agencies to protect environmental and human health and safety.

STRATEGY HIGHLIGHT: ENGAGING RANCHERS

Commission Shift used some of their grant from the Hive Fund to create a series of ads inviting landowners and workers in oil and gas regions to tell their stories. Nearly 250 people responded with direct messages of how they've been impacted by leaks, spills, abandoned wells, and other problems they've had with the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the oil and gas industry in Texas. Commission Shift organizers connected respondents with resources to file a formal complaint or amplify their story with the press.



Commission Shift team members

GRANTEE PROGRESS

- Commission Shift is anchoring a coalition in Texas working to stop the state from getting authority from the EPA to regulate carbon injection wells and demand more protections. An oil and gas operator they brought to the legislature testified about an acid gas plume caused by a carbon injection operation that ate through a heavy duty five-inch drill pipe within 12 hours. Executive Director Virginia Palacios was invited to join a White House task force overseeing and making recommendations for CCS permitting.
- Groups in Texas used organizing and education to stop proposed legislation declaring that CO2 is not a pollutant or a nuisance, which would have limited the ability of regulators to prevent leaks and venting on CCS facilities, as well as the public's ability to file claims related to injuries.
- The Louisiana Against False Solutions coalition of 20 national and local organizations, including several grantee partners, has come together to challenge Louisiana's application for primacy in regulating CCS injection wells and contest proposed CCS projects in the state. They recently turned out hundreds of people to testify and submitted more than 19,000 written comments in an EPA hearing, and have generated national media coverage. They developed a three-year plan to support core members doing research and education, coordinating statewide advocacy, conducting grassroots organizing, and developing a strong media and communications presence.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

SURGE FUNDING FOR FRONTLINE GROUPS IN THE GULF SOUTH

Surge funding (multiyear general support) for the groups doing organizing, movement building, and political will building can supercharge efforts to stop proposed oil and gas expansion in the Gulf South and build momentum for cleaner alternatives.

The Hive Fund is raising money this year to deepen support for existing campaigns to rein in oil, gas, and petrochemical polluters, expand grantmaking to new areas along the Gulf Coast, and better connect these efforts with global counterparts. Our long-term strategy is to help foster powerful constellations of groups with enough political, economic, and cultural power to transition key regions away from an oil and gas stranglehold to cleaner, more just, and more diversified economies.



The expansion of oil and gas production and export is a major threat to climate efforts. We partner with the Hive Fund because of their ability to move grant funding in strategic ways to community groups in the Gulf South who are on the frontlines of these global campaigns.”

Doua Thor
Vice President of Strategy & Influence, Sobrato Philanthropies

SOUTHERN POWERBUILDER



I’ve seen community engagement in Southwest Louisiana grow so much over the last few years thanks in part to philanthropic support for leaders like me. I’m rooted here and I put community needs first. That’s why people trust me. It’s exhausting dealing with non-stop disasters, feeling let down by our elected officials, and caring for my family’s health. But I’m also tapping into power and love in this work in ways that sustain me and move us all toward justice.”

Roishetta Sibley Ozane, M.S.
Gulf Fossil Finance Coordinator at Texas Campaign for the Environment and Director of The Vessel Project of Louisiana

Roishetta Sibley Ozane, single mother of six, started a mutual aid organization and became an activist because she and her family and community in Southwest Louisiana were continually suffering through severe storms and pollution from nearby oil, gas, and petrochemical plants. She worked her way up from unpaid volunteer to become a national and international climate justice movement leader.



STOPPING HARMFUL BIOFUELS

Biomass from forests and biogas from industrial hog farms are emerging as major threats to rural communities on the Atlantic Coast. New funding from the Inflation Reduction Act is spurring growth of these polluting facilities, largely located in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, and diverting investments from cleaner alternatives. Hive Fund grantees are waging communications, legal, and regulatory campaigns to raise awareness and demand protections.

GRANTEE PROGRESS

- The Environmental Justice Community Action Network (EJCAN) and partners in North Carolina are contesting a one-size-fits-all permit that allows hog operations to produce gas from giant pits of animal waste and spray the remains on surrounding fields. They and other grantee partners also secured a special session with the Department of Environmental Quality to present recommendations for implementing cumulative impacts analyses in permitting processes for these facilities.
- EJCAN and North Carolina Environmental Justice Network joined with a group of 155 environmental justice, food and farm, and climate organizations to contest new scoring criteria for USDA's Rural Energy for America program that would benefit polluting biogas and biomass projects. EJCAN has also earned comprehensive coverage around pollution from biogas in major news outlets.
- Partnership for Southern Equity and its coalition partners convinced the Georgia Public Service Commission to withdraw plans to let biomass facilities add rubber tires as a fuel source.

FUNDING HEALING JUSTICE AND HOLISTIC SECURITY

People engaged in movement work — especially Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian American and Pacific Islander women — often get burned out by the relentless nature of power building and the stress and dehumanization of having to demand, organize, and advocate for dignity and rights that should be universally enjoyed.

These changemakers are using both traditional and new practices to protect themselves and manage trauma from physical, cyber, and psychological threats, sustain their wellbeing, and transform systems of White supremacy and misogyny that perpetuate these harms. The Hive Fund's healing justice and holistic security (HJ/HS) grantmaking recognizes and resources these efforts to foster powerful and healthy movements and leaders.

In 2022 and 2023, we partnered with healing justice practitioners at Ananse Consulting to hold listening sessions with grantee cohorts to learn about their HJ/HS challenges and the practices and traditions they use to help navigate them. Based on what we heard:

We made more than

\$600K

in supplemental grants to support **10 organizations** in meeting their self-defined healing justice and security needs.

We hosted

28

individuals from **18 organizations** in a HJ/HS workshops series.

Examples of how grantee partners are using Hive Fund general support grants for HJ/HS practices:

- Training for staff and community partners on transformational resilience and climate grief frameworks.
- Cyber security audits and updates.
- Organizational safety plan development and physical security system upgrades for office buildings.
- Conflict mediation and transformation support for addressing harms within organizations and with external partners.
- Trainers to embed breathwork and somatics into organizational culture.



[Read more about our progress at hivefund.org/healing-justice-2023](https://hivefund.org/healing-justice-2023)



Increased visibility makes leaders and their communities vulnerable to physical and cyber-attacks. We are proud to support the Hive Fund in its efforts to improve the safety, security, and wellbeing of leaders in the US South as they build vibrant and influential movements to achieve equity and justice.”

Kathryn Kevin
Programme Officer, Oak Foundation



Support for healing justice and holistic security allowed me to have the space and resources to work with my board to develop internal practices that support our staff and to have a strong transition to new leadership.”

Leng Leng Chancey (pictured right)
President and CEO of 9to5 National Association of Working Women

Leng Leng Chancey is a first-generation immigrant activist and organizer who has fought tirelessly to win and protect the rights of poor women and women of color to thrive and lead in their communities. As the first woman of color to lead 9to5 National Association of Working Women, she worked to dismantle established cultural racism within the organization by increasing salaries, providing self-care stipends and more for the organization’s predominantly women staff and volunteers, and investing heavily in their professional development. As a result, the organization now boasts an executive leadership team comprised of all women of color.



PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE THE SOUTH IS

The moment to invest in climate action in the US South is now.

We've seen what women of color leadership and frontline movements working for cleaner, healthier, and more economically just communities have accomplished already with just pennies on the philanthropic dollar. With scaled up philanthropic funding to catalyze billions in new federal investments, we have an opportunity for truly transformational change. **Our goal is to at least double our annual grantmaking from nearly \$20 million in 2023 to \$40 million in 2025.**

Collaborative regrantsing funds like the Hive Fund [play a critical role](#) in the philanthropic ecosystem, helping funders achieve greater impact. The Hive Fund is honored to be one of five intermediaries awarded funding to participate in the Gates Foundation's 2023 Equity-Centered Accelerator Initiative to build our capacity and scale our fundraising and grantmaking for climate, gender, and racial justice.

“Systemic change requires a lot of people working together, pooling resources and expertise over time. Collaboratives are a great way to formalize partnerships, share knowledge and deploy resources at scale to help us take on the biggest, toughest challenges.”

—Melinda French Gates, Financial Times, Dec 6, 2022



WHAT WE OFFER FUNDING PARTNERS

- 
Strategic grantmaking and place-based expertise: We bring together the deep expertise of grantee partners, advisors, and staff — all based across the South — to co-create grant strategy, understand progress, and share learnings.
- 
Speed and scale of impact: We efficiently pool and award funds to support ecosystems of grantee partners working collectively to address complex challenges. We have administrative and staffing capacity to make grants to numerous smaller groups in ways that foundations with more limited staffing can find challenging.
- 
Connectivity and coordination: We connect funders to prospective grantee partners with whom they may not typically share space. We coordinate with aligned re-granters to ensure that our efforts are complimentary.
- 
Learning: We share insights with funders and grantee partners and build solidarity and community as we lean into more equitable philanthropic grantcraft. We share confidential bi-annual docket memos and progress updates with our funders.



The Hive Fund has deep place-based expertise in the South and supports organizations working at the intersection of a number of issues we care about — including promoting racial equity, advancing health equity and supporting the leadership of women of color — as well as issues and groups we are learning more about, including climate justice. Their focus on community engagement and power building is well aligned with our strategies for how we believe systems change happens.”

Erin Currier,
Senior Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

CURRENT FUNDERS

We're grateful to the funding partners who make our work possible.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Ballmer Group | Oak Foundation |
| Bezos Earth Fund | Panta Rhea Foundation |
| Chockstone Fund | Resourcing Justice Fund, a fund of the Amalgamated Charitable Foundation |
| Clara Lionel Foundation | Silo Redistribution Fund |
| Climate Imperative Foundation | Skyline Foundation |
| ClimateWorks Foundation | Sobrato Philanthropies |
| David Rockefeller Fund | The JPB Foundation |
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PARTNER WITH US!

If you're interested in supporting the Hive Fund, contact Strategic Partnerships Director **Nandini Chaturvedula** at nandini@hivefund.org



www.hivefund.org



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